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REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank both Examiner Pensee Do and Primary Examiner Christopher Chin for the courtesy of conducting the interview held February 25, 2004 and for reconsideration of this application.

Claims 24 and 26-39 are pending. The present response amends claims 24, 31 and 34. Claims 26 and 35-36 are canceled herein. The claims are amended to improve readability, as discussed during the examiner interview and to incorporate the limitations of claim 26 into the independent claims. Claims 26 and 35-36 are canceled as redundant in view of the amendments to the independent claims.

Applicants submit that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited prior art, Liberti et al. and Nichtl et al., neither of which discloses all of the elements of the invention claimed here. Even in combination, these two references do not disclose the method for stabilizing the biomolecule function of colloidal biomolecule-particle conjugates comprising adding 0.001-1 mM detergent and thereafter loading particles in a colloidal state with a solution of biomolecules.

Applicants therefore request that the pending rejection on grounds of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn and the application be allowed to proceed to issue. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.